

# BRAKES - A CAUTIONARY TALE

Although Zulu Mike operates from Shoreham's tarmac runway 03/21, we have to taxi over grass for the short distance from our apron to the taxiway. Unbeknown to us, we collected a mixture of grass and mud in the right hand spat which worked its way into the brake calliper and effectively jammed the right brake on.

While taxiing 500m and then backtracking 824m of runway 21 the aircraft tended to veer to the right, but it was not until the take-off roll that it became apparent that there was a problem: the take-off

was immediately aborted. On shut down the right spat was removed and the cause of the problem was revealed.

It is difficult to prove a negative. However we may surmise that the recently installed aluminium heat shields saved the main gear leg from softening and that the time spent in their manufacture and installation was justified. **The heat had also led to a serious leak of brake fluid. Zulu Mike flies with non-inflammable silicone brake fluid: we are rather glad we made the change!**